



## JJPOC Executive Committee

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

10-11:30AM

### Zoom Conference Call

#### Attendance:

Rep. Toni Walker  
Sec. Melissa McCaw  
Vincent Russo  
Marc Pelka  
Hon. Bernadette Conway  
Janeen Reid  
Ken Mysogland  
Eleanor Michael  
Maria Pirro-Simmons  
Derrick Molden  
Eulalia Garcia  
Mike Nunes

John Frassinelli  
Derrick Gordon  
Sen. Gary Winfield  
Erica Bromley  
Christine Rappillo  
Christina Quaranta  
Amy Vatner  
Martha Stone  
Hector Glynn  
Deborah Fuller  
Gary Roberge  
Cathy Foley-Geib

Tasha Hunt  
Vernon Beaullier  
Karen Martucci  
Kelan Lyons  
Rep. Robyn Porter  
Sonya Jelks  
Erika Nowakowski  
Bill Carbone  
Kelly Orts  
Danielle Cooper  
Alex Scranton  
Catherine Parafati

#### Meeting Summary:

##### 1. Updates from Deep End of System

- **Department of Corrections** provided a PowerPoint presentation address some concerns and questions regarding the care of their youth at this time.
  - Release of medically vulnerable youth
    - Currently there are 6 medically vulnerable youth, with COVID-19 symptoms, chronic illnesses, in need of medical care at MYI
    - 12 youth at MYI are under observation- 3 are new admissions, 5 were in contact with a medical provider who tested positive, and 4 were cellmates of those in contact
    - Medical discharge planner is ensuring that all needs are met, and referrals are made prior to discharge (mental health, addiction services, etc.)
    - DOC will work with the Public Defender's Office to review cases if these youth are represented by a public defender
  - Cases for youth and young adults under 21 as part of prison population reduction plan
    - 128 sentenced adults and 8 sentenced youth
      - Reviewing cases to determine who is eligible for release into the community and ensuring supports are in place
    - 140 accused adults and 36 accused youth
      - CSSD would determine the release of unsentenced offenders
    - 7 offenders have been released so far from MYI this week
    - They are currently reviewing inmates who are already eligible for community release for a 45-day reentry furlough

- MYI has 29 youth under 21 and scheduled for release within the next 120 days
- Connecting to family/community
  - Agreement with phone provider currently allows 2 additional free calls. There is discussion for additional calls as unlimited calls would have to be done statutorily.
  - They are also exploring video conferencing technology
  - Collaboration with volunteers in the community to provide mentorship via letters, video conferencing in near future, etc.
- Education
  - Teachers are not allowed in facility at this time
  - Inmates are not allowed to leave their unit due to illness concerns
  - Each unit is equipped with a book cart with additional books recently provided by Yale
  - Partnership for CT is donating technology materials, including laptops, for at-risk/high need youth around the state
    - DOC is open to receiving these resources and would like to collaborate with OCA on this
- Mental Health
  - Mental health staff still tour the facility daily. Individualized sessions are conducted whenever necessary, although it is difficult to implement at this time with limited resources
  - Use of religious services has helped with mental health checks
- Activities, Programs and Commissary
  - Inmates are still allowed 1 hour outside daily.
  - Continuation of personal growth, religious and RJ programming within units
  - All basic hygiene, food/snack, recreational and spiritual needs are offered for any inmate who cannot afford them at no cost.
  - Exploring enhanced meals, snacks and recreation to youth
- The **Judicial Branch CSSD** provided a supplemental document addressing facility population, health and safety precautions, and continuation of services.
  - There was a reduced population in detention from 86 to 57 over the course of the last month
  - Detention hearings still take place through video conferencing
  - Hartford and Bridgeport court still operational
  - 3 juveniles tested positive for COVID-19 in Hartford: 1 negative, 4 pending.
  - 1 juvenile was tested in Bridgeport with a negative result
    - Due to positive tests in Hartford, admissions to Hartford detention have been suspended as of 3/31/20

- All new entries into Bridgeport detention are quarantined for 14 days per DPH guidelines

## 2. Updates from Front End of System

### ○ **Department of Children and Families**

- Offices were temporarily shut down in certain locations due to close proximity to NY but the other remaining offices are open
- 81% of staff has ability to work remotely
  - When remote options aren't sufficient, in-person services are still available with precautions
- For youth in congregate/residential programs, contacts with family are available through internet & phone
- DCF established an agency COVID email and website for providers, families on new guidelines, restrictions, etc. 8,000 visits have been recorded to the website so far. Frequent updates are made

### ○ **YSB/JRB**

- CYSA reached out to all local YSB/JRBs regarding their status. About 50% of locations have responded.
- Offices are not open to the public and staff are either working in the office or at home
- Some services are still available with modified delivery, while other services are unavailable due to limitations
- Less than 1/3 of JRBs accepting new youth at this time
- CYSA is in contact with DCF to help ease concerns about resources, funding, programming
- There are some concerns about privacy, especially with virtual work
- They are engaging with LEAs to ensure they are on same page with educational programming

### ○ **Education**

- Emergency Meal Program
  - 129 schools, 407 locations statewide
  - Visit schools' website/social media for updates on locations of meals
  - 39 after-school locations approved to distribute meals (SUPPER Program)
  - Received waivers to allow schools to distribute to-go meals for students and other youth in the community
    - Parents can pick up meals for youth, multiple meals at one time. Some districts are providing weekend meals
    - Use of school buses to distribute meals to apartment complexes, school bus stops

- Applications underway for program that would provide youth who qualify for free meals to receive a “debit” card with dollar amount sufficient for a day’s worth of meals
- Technology/Distance Learning
  - Partnership for CT promised 60,000 laptops for use by students in Alliance school districts
  - Webpage available on SDE website for best practices
  - Districts are underway with distance learning programs

### **3. JJPOC Operations**

- Legislative Process
  - i. They were unable to hold any public hearings regarding the JJPOC bill
  - ii. The current situation is unpredictable and there are more immediate matters to be address in response to COVID-19.
- TYJI will work with the JJPOC co-chairs on future meetings, communications, and goals at this time.

#### **Final Discussion:**

- External resources are available through emergency grants with the state, collaboration with state agencies and OPM to ensure they have all resources they need
- There is hope in the future to work with local law enforcement and first responders who interact with youth that are still congregating in large groups in the community and appropriately educate them on dangers of the situation.

**Next Meeting- TBD**